

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2352

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2746

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 11280

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY AND TREASURY (BATF)

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: ISRAELI DEMARCHE TO EC ON KOSHER WINE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS A-354, (B) EC BRUSSELS 8703

1. THE ISRAELI MISSION TO THE EC HAS PASSED US A COPY OF AN
AIDE MEMOIRE IT DELIVERED TO THE COMMISSION OCTOBER 28 REGARDING
EC LABELLING REGULATIONS FOR IMPORTED WINE. THE AIDE MEMOIRE
REFERS TO ARTICLE IX:2 OF COMMISSION REGULATION NO. 1608/76
(REF.A) WHICH PROHIBITS INSCRIBING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
CONSUMER AS TO ACCEPTABILITY FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES ON LABELS
OF BOTTLED WINE FOR SALE TO OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.
ISRAEL

DOES NOT FEEL THAT THIS PROVISION SHOULD APPLY TO ITS EXPORTS
OF KOSHER WINE TO THE EC. THE TERM "KOSHER" OR "KOSHER FOR
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PASSOVER" ACCORDING TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE (WHICH WE HAVE

TRANSLATED FREELY FROM THE FRENCH) "IS DESTINED ONTHE ONE HAND FOR PRIVATE CONSUMERS FOR SABBATH BENEDICTIONS OR HOME FEASTS AND ON THE OTHER HAND FOR PERSONS RESPECTING THE RELIGIOUS DIETETIC LAWS, THIS INSCRIPTION ASSURING THEM THAT THE WINE HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CONFORMANCE WI THESE LAWS UNDER RABBINICAL INSPECTION." THE AIDE MEMOIRE STATES THAT "GIVEN THAT THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE TRADE WITH RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES, BUT A RECOMMENDATION TO A PRIVATE CONSUMER, THE MISSION OF ISRAEL REQUESTS THE COMMISSION TO AUTHORIZE ISRAEL TO USE THE DESIGNATION 'KOSHER' OR 'KOSHER FOR PASSOVER' ON THE LABELS OF BOTTLES COMING FROM ISRAEL."

2. THE ISRAELI MISSION FURTHER ASKS IN THIS AIDE MEMOIRE TO RECEIVE THE SAME DEROGATIONS AS THAT ACCORDED TO AUSTRALIA AND THE USA TO INDICATE A GEOGRAPHIC AREA, GRAPE VARIETY, AND VINTAGE YEAR ON A LABLE PROVIDED THAT 85 PERCENT OF THE GRAPES USED COME FROM THAT AREA, VARIETY AND YEAR RESPECTIVELY.
(COMMENT: US ACTUALLY HAS DEROGATION TO 95 PERCENT, NOT 85 PERCENT ON VINTAGE YEAR.)

3. THE COMMISSION HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE ISRAELI AIDE MEMOIRE.

4. THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE OF THE ISRAELI MISSION IS VERY INTERESTED IN COORDINATING WITH US ON THE KOSHER WINE MATTER AS WELL AS ON OTHER EC BARRIERS TO WINE IMPORTS. THE COMMISSION MADE THE SAME SUGGESTION TO ISRAEL AS TO US ON KOSHER WINE; NAMELY, THAT ON BOTTLES OF KOSHER WINE FOR COMMERCIAL CIRCULATION THE WORD "KOSHER" ONLY BE INDICATED IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE (REF. B). THE ISRAELI AGATTACHE TOLD US THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MAY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL AS A LAST RESORT. HE SAYS THAT THE COMMISSION IS RELUCTANT TO DROP COMPLETELY THE PROVISIONS LIMITING RELIGIOUS WINES TO RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS; HOWEVER, IT IS STYMIED AS TO FINDING APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE TO TAKE CARE OF KOSHER WINE. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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